

I would ask the Commissioners to carefully consider the potential adverse effect a further concentration of power into fewer companies the proposed deregulation will have on the vitality of the Republican, Democratic or other political party. A concentrated news media, protected by the 1st Amendment, and not elected by citizens of this country may be capable of interposing sufficient political influence so as to enable a small group to control all meaningful political debate and information. Such an action is likely to work to the detriment of all political parties including the Republican Party. Alternative means of communication such as the internet do not possess a sufficient credible counterweight to television, print and radio media.

Shared powers are the essence of our democracy. I hope you will be as wise as the founders of this nation in your efforts to protect the freedoms which the Constitution and the 1st Amendment secure. No economic argument has ever held sufficient sway to shift power dramatically from one branch of government to another and thus is should be in the present situation. The media have the ultimate power to persuade and thus the power to control all other branches of the government. No one small group of persons should be allowed to amass too much power to persuade.

With kind regards,

Daniel W. Coffey